

Key Messages

A demonstration involving a large convoy of trucks coming to Ottawa will cause significant traffic and transit delays and disruptions this weekend.

The City of Ottawa is working in lockstep with the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) and all other partners to ensure that the safety of our residents is maintained during the anticipated demonstration involving a large convoy of trucks.

Emergency services throughout the City will be deployed and focused on ensuring that the safety of the public is maintained and that dedicated lanes are kept cleared for emergency vehicles.

If possible, residents should avoid unnecessary travel through or into the downtown core as early as Friday, January 28, going into Sunday, January 30, with the largest impact being Saturday, January 29. There is a possibility that disruptions may extend beyond Sunday. If you do travel, plan ahead and expect significant delays.

Pedestrians and cyclists should be aware that there will be a significant heavy truck presence on roads and they should exercise caution.

It's anticipated the demonstrators will arrive in the area around Parliament Hill on Saturday. However, impacts will be felt as the demonstrators make their way to this destination on roadways and highways across the city.

Residents and visitors can expect to see a large police and emergency services presence in the downtown core and on major highways and roads.

The City is working with the lead partner, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS), to keep the public informed on city-wide traffic and transit.

Advice for business owners and operators

Communicate your operating plans (open, closed, amended hours of operation) with your customers using your social media channels. Advise them of any anticipated or actual customer access issues - this includes delivery, takeout, curbside pickup, appointments.

Connect with neighbouring businesses to communicate your operating plans through the weekend and encourage them to reach out to customers and employees.

Appointment-based businesses (salons, spas, etc.) should advise clients to reschedule or communicate that travel time, especially to downtown, will likely be impacted.

If your business will be open, advise staff to avoid vehicular transportation to get to work.

Ottawa Police Service Key Messages for BIAs

Demonstrations expected in Ottawa throughout the weekend, starting Friday, will have significant impacts on traffic throughout the area, and may also impact businesses.

Community Police Officers have been meeting with BIAs and businesses to ensure that they have as much information about the weekend demonstrations as possible.

The OPS will always be available to respond to any issues of safety you may encounter by dialing 911.

All open source information and our interactions with Freedom Rally organizers indicate that this will be a significant and extremely fluid event that could go on for a prolonged period.

On Wednesday, the Ottawa Police Services Board hosted a special meeting and the Ottawa Police provided details on their approach for these events. You can find out more about the information shared on the City Council YouTube page.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED

Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available. Follow @OttawaPolice for more details.

The City of Ottawa will also be providing updates and maps on ottawa.ca.

For traffic updates, follow the City of Ottawa @Ottawa_Traffic or use a traffic monitoring app to check for traffic congestion before you travel.

OC Transpo buses and Para Transpo may also experience some travel delays through the downtown core, and detours may be required. Stay up to date on the latest transit information by visiting octranspo.com, calling 613-560-5000 or following OC Transpo's Twitter account.

Keep track of the latest service impacts by following the City of Ottawa's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Social Media

	FB	Several traffic and transit disruptions are anticipated over the weekend due to a planned demonstration around #OttCity's downtown and surrounding area. Please allow extra time if you are travelling in the area, follow @Ottawa_Traffic or use traffic monitoring apps. For more information on traffic and other impacts, visit:
Friday		

Friday	Twitter - Traffic reminder	Several traffic disruptions are anticipated over the weekend (Jan 29 and 30) due to a planned demonstration around #OttCity's downtown and surrounding area. For live traffic updates, check out @Ottawa_Traffic. For more details on other impacts, visit:
SAT	Twitter Weekend demonstration - Impacts webpage	ICYMI: Traffic and transit impacts are expected in #OttCity's downtown and surrounding area today Jan. 29 and tomorrow, Jan. 30 due to a planned demonstration. For updates on traffic impacts, follow @Ottawa_Traffic For other potential service impacts:
SAT	Facebook Weekend demonstration - Impacts webpage	ICYMI: Traffic and transit impacts are expected in #OttCity's downtown and surrounding area today January 29 and tomorrow, January 30 due to a planned demonstration. For updates on traffic delays, consider using traffic monitoring apps or follow @Ottawa_Traffic on Twitter. Visit: for other potential service impacts.
SAT	Weekend demonstration - Impacts webpage	Heads up #OttWalk and #OttBike: expect heavy traffic and trucks in #OttCity's downtown and surrounding area due to a planned demonstration this weekend, January 29 and 30. If traveling in those areas, please use caution.
SUN	Facebook - Weekend demonstration - Traffic reminder	Reminder, #OttCity: This weekend's planned demonstration will cause several traffic and transit disruptions in downtown and the surrounding area. Please allow for extra time if travelling in the area or consider using alternate routes when possible. For more info:
SUN	Twitter - Weekend demonstration - Traffic reminder	Reminder, #OttCity: Due to this weekend's expected demonstration, several traffic and transit disruptions may impact downtown and the surrounding area. Please allow for extra time if travelling in the area and follow @Ottawa_Traffic for live updates. Info:
SUN	Twitter/FB - Weekend demonstration - Pedestrians/cyclists	Due to this weekend's planned demonstration, pedestrians and cyclists can expect to see several heavy trucks throughout the downtown core and surrounding area. Please allow extra time when travelling in the area. For info on other service impacts:
SUN	Twitter/FB - Weekend demonstration - Extended	Please note that there is a possibility that disruptions due to the planned demonstration may extend beyond today, January 30. Please continue to follow us on social media for updates.

Ottawa Police Tweets:

Traffic Related

Weekend Traffic Update: Expect major disruptions to traffic throughout Ottawa and especially in the downtown core. If you have appointments, children in activities, are expecting food deliveries, please be prepared to adjust your plans. #ottawa #otttraffic

Do not travel if you can avoid it this weekend in Ottawa, plan accordingly and expect delays.

We are working with our City and Policing partners to minimize disruptions but expect significant traffic delays and disruptions.

Promoting a safe environment

Police and our partners are focused on providing a safe environment for the community and demonstrators. We are aware of inappropriate and threatening language on social media related to this event.

We welcome peaceful demonstrations. That said, public safety is paramount – there will be consequences for persons engaging in criminal conduct, violence and/or activities promoting hate. #ottawa

@ottawapolice and our policing and municipal partners are doing everything we possibly can to keep emergency lanes open and access to hospitals/health care facilities intact. Emergency access is our priority in terms of traffic management. #ottawa #otttraffic

Demonstrators: Be aware of your rights and responsibilities. #ottawa [link to OPSs site](#).